

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 04732 211009Z

51

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 035887

R 210907Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1860

S E C R E T BANGKOK 4732

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, VN, VS, PINS, CH
SUBJ: RUMORS OF THIEU'S SURRENDER PLANS

1. WILLIAM H. BANCROFT JR., AN AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN BASED IN HONG KONG, CALLED THE EMBASSY MARCH 21. HE ASKED THAT AN OFFICER MEET WITH HIM SO THAT HE COULD PASS ON INFORMATION FROM A CHINESE INFORMANT IN HONG KONG WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN "90 PERCENT ACCURATE."

2. BANCROFT SAID HIS INFORMATION WAS ABOUTTEN DAYS OLD. HE SAID A COMBINATION OF CHINA, NORTH VIETNAM AND THE PRG HAD CHOSEN A SINO-VIETNAMESE NAMED PHUONG, WHO HAD BEEN BORN IN HONG KONG BUT IS CURRENTLY IN SAIGON, TO REPLACE THIEU WITHIN THE NEXT FIFTEEN DAYS. THIEU'S REFUSAL WOULD MEAN THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WOULD MILITARILY TAKE OVER SOUTH VIETNAM IN 30 TO 45 DAYS THEREAFTER. THIEU, OFFERED RESIGNATION "WITH HONOR" AND UPSET BY DIMINISHING U.S. SUPPORT, AS WELL AS BY ARVN INABILITY TO COPE WITH THE SITUATION, HAS AGREED TO THESE TERMS. PEKING IS THE GODFATHER BEHIND THIS AGREEMENT.

3. BANCROFT SAID THAT HE COULD PRODUCE DOCUMENTATION TO SUBSTANTIATE THIS REPORT BUT THE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS WERE BEYOND HIS PERSONAL MEANS. HE DID NOT SEEM TO BE SOLICITING MONEY, AND CLAIMED HE WAS PASSING ON THIS INFORMATION AS A PATRIOTIC AMERICAN, A CONTENTION THAT WE HAVE NO GROUNDS FOR DOUBTING.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGKO 04732 211009Z

4. FIFTEEN MINUTES IS INSUFFICIENT TIME TO LEARN WHETHER BANCROFT IS A PATRIOT OR A CRACKPOT, OR BOTH. WE HAVE NO WAY OF JUDGING THE VALIDITY OF HIS INFORMATION FROM HERE, BUT MUCH OF ITS SOUNDS LIKE POPPYCOCK. WE WOULD FIND THE SELECTION OF A SINO-VIETNAMESE A HARD PILL FOR EITHER SAIGON OR LOC NINH TO SWALLOW. WE THUS PASS ON THIS INFORMATION FOR WHATEVER DOUBTFUL UTILITY IT MAY HAVE. HONG KONG MAY WISH TO COMMENT ON BANCROFT, PARTICULARLY SINCE HE CLAIMS TO KNOW DEPUTY PRINCIPAL OFFICER GETSINGER. MASTERS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO04732
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750099-0666
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750329/aaaaazxl.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RUMORS OF THIEU'S SURRENDER PLANS
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, VN, VS, CH, (BRANCROFT, WILLIAM H), (NGUYEN VAN THIEU)
To: SAIGON HONG KONG
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006